

Oedipus Rex

words and music by TOM LEHRER

Freely, with motion (in 2)

C Cmaj7 C7 C6 B_b B_bmaj7

A musical score for two voices. The top staff is for the soprano voice and the bottom staff is for the bassoon. The key signature is common time (C). The vocal line starts with a dotted half note followed by eighth notes. The piano accompaniment consists of eighth-note chords. The lyrics begin with "From the Bib - le to the pop - u - lar song, There's one theme that we".

B_b7 B_b6 A_b A_bmaj7 A_b7 A_b6 G Gmaj7 Gm7^{b5} G7,

A continuation of the musical score. The vocal line begins with a dotted half note followed by eighth notes. The piano accompaniment consists of eighth-note chords. The lyrics continue with "find right a-long, Of all i-deals they hail as good, The most sub-lime is moth-er-hood. There". The piano part includes a dynamic marking "poco rit." over the final chord.

C Cmaj7 C7 C6 B_b B_bmaj7 B_b7 B_b6

was a man, though, who, it seems, Once car - ried this i - deal to extremes, He

Lively, a tempo (in 2)

A_b A_bmaj7 A_b7 A_b6 C Gdim

loved his moth-er and she loved him, And yet his stor - y is rath - er

G7 C F7 C F7 C F7 G7 C G

grim: _____ There
(His)

C F7 C G7

once lived a man named Oed-i-pus Rex, You may have heard a - bout his odd com plex, His
ri - vals used to say quite a bit, That as a mon-arch he was most un - fit, But

C F7 | 1 D9 G7

name ap - pears in Freud's in - dex, 'Cause he loved his moth - er.
still and all they had to ad - mit That he

D9 F/G G7 | 2 D9 G7 C

His loved his moth - er.

C F7 G7 C G+

Yes, he loved his mother like no oth-er, His

Gm A7 Dm G7

daugh-ter was his sis-ter and his son was his broth-er, One thing on which you can de-pend is:

poco rit.

C C^{#dim} G7 C F7

He sure knew who a boy's best friend is. When he found what he had done, He

C G7 C F7

tore his eyes out one by one, A tragic end for a loyal son who

D9 G7 C

loved his moth - er. So be

Freely, with motion

C Cmaj7 C7 C6 B♭ B♭maj7 B♭7 B♭6

sweet and kind to mother, now and then have a chat, Buy her candy or some flowers or a brand new hat, But

- 5 - A tempo (as before)

A_b

A_bmaj7

A_b7

A_b6

C

Gdim

G7

may-be you had bet-ter let it go at that, Or you may find your - self with a quite com -

C

Gm6

A7

D7

G7

plex com - plex, And you may end up like Oed - i - pus,

D7

G7

D9

G7

I'd rath-er mar-ry a duck-billed pled - i - pus, Than end up like old Oed - i - pus

cresc.

C

F7

G7

C

Rex!

ff

sfp